

Chronicle WEST 5 SPA

A publication for friends and neighbors of the West Service Planning Area Health Office



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LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY OF PROMISE YOUTH FESTIVAL

Photo caption:

Partners for the Los Angeles Community of Promise include, from left to right Lance Williams, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency; Rodney Dixon, Street Legend Basketball; Robert Cordova, Trinity Street Elementary School; Andrea Perry, Cedar-Sinai Medical Center; John Liechty, Los Angeles Unified School District; Douglas Webber, HOPE worldwide—Los Angeles; Belinda Towns, Los Angeles County Department of Health; and Harris Wofford, America's Promise. Not pictured: Terris Cota ABLE International

The Los Angeles County Health Department is proud to announce its partnership in the Los Angeles Community of Promise. This important coalition is committed to bringing the "Five Promises* of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth" to Los Angeles County. We have had great suc-



cess in our "Schools of Promise" pilot programs, and are ready to formally launch the Los Angeles Community of Promise "Schools of Promise", as well as our Promise Station Website. We are currently operating in 3 elementary

schools, and are planning to establish 4 additional sites by the end of 2004.

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VIOLENCE: "IMPACT ON WOMEN AND FAMILIES"

The California Science Center hosted a well-attended informative symposium entitled, "Violence: Impact on Women and Families" on April 17, 2003. This symposium was sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services South Area Health Office, The South Central Multi-Purpose Center, Charles R. Drew University School of Medicine and Sciences, and Healthy African American

Families. Domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and workplace violence were among the issues presented at this event.

Violence is a public health issue plaguing our nation. Gun violence in particular claims many innocent lives every day. Worldwide, one in every three women is physically or sexually abused, often by family members. Violence leaves physical and emotional scars

that may last a lifetime and rob its victims of a happy productive life.

Let us NOT accept this "UNACCEPTABLE REALITY"; let us join hands to stop violence from claiming the lives of our friends, brothers, and sisters worldwide.

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"Never Accept an Unacceptable Reality"

Leland Kaiser

"The only
limitation
you face is
that of your
own con-
sciousness"

Leland Kaiser



Children Are The Future

Violence: "Impact on Women and Families"

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The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Injury and Violence Prevention Program is hosting an Angel of Peace Awards Ceremony on May 13th 2003, followed by a Basketball Tournament in July and a 1-day conference on November 6th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles.

To participate or to obtain additional information, you may visit WWW.VPCLA.ORG or contact Maryanne Galindo, Associate Director of the Violence Prevention Coalition at 213-351-7888.



Los Angeles Community of Promise Youth Festival

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The Los Angeles County Public Health is working on bringing existing County programs in HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease education to the Schools of Promise to complete the Healthy Start Promise.

We have scheduled several events in June 2003, specifically, a Five Promise Dinner Awards Ceremony on Friday June 20, 2003 at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, and a major youth festival on Saturday June 21, 2003 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The youth festival will have 30 workshops on topics pertaining to the 5 promises and will include several organizations. There will be entertainment, parent education, health and nutrition, and many other activities for both children and adults. Students will come from many local school districts, churches and other organizations. In addition, many prominent leaders from the education, corporate, health care, entertainment, professional sports and political arenas will be present.

For additional information or to volunteer to help, please contact Hope Worldwide at (310) 665-0888, Cathy Pinnock (ext.14) or Claudia Lozano (ext 10).

**The Five Promises:*

1. **Caring Adults**-Fostering and building ongoing relationships between youth and caring adults
2. **Safe Places**-creating safe places for youth with structured activities during non-school hours
3. **A Healthy Start**-to help guide and meet the health and nutritional needs of youth
4. **Marketable Skills**-through effective education
5. **Opportunities to Serve**- to give back through community service

Latino Health Issues

Los Angeles County houses an estimated 4,242,213 (45%) people of Latino decent, the majority of whom are of Mexican origin. Almost one-third of the County's residents were born outside the United States and there is a noticeable amount of border crossing. Approximately half (46%) of non-elderly adult Latinos are uninsured in Los Angeles County; 47% of these uninsured persons report difficulty obtaining needed medical care². In 1993, the Institute Of Medicine identified financial, structural, and personal barriers that hinder access healthcare. In spite of educational efforts, health care systems often do not adequately address how culture, language and personal beliefs regarding health affect access to services. Services such as early diagnosis of HIV, appropriate screening for cervical and breast cancer, and childhood immunizations often succumb to cultural biases in health care provision.

Often times, the resulting utilization of unregulated medical care can prevent or delay the patients from seeking legitimate medical evaluation and diagnosis, resulting in untreated disease, health complications, or death²; at least two children in southern California have died as a result of these practices. Accurate estimates of numbers of persons who suffer these adverse effects are unknown because they frequently go unrecognized or unreported [M. Cuevas, personal communications, Health Authority Law Enforcement Task Force (HALT)].

Despite considerable legal efforts to curb unlicensed health care through the formation of HALT and Operation Safe Medicine (OSM), little is known about individuals who seek illegal medical services. Reasons for seeking care outside licensed health care facilities include social, cultural, political, and economic factors, such as the cost of health care, cultural norms/beliefs and immigration status. The reasons for seeking illegal medical services in the U.S. have not yet been systematically analyzed.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LACDHS) Binational/Border Health Program Disease is collaborating with the Investigations and Surveillance Branch (DISB) of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) on a pilot study to explore the social, cultural, and Medical/health issues associated



with the utilization of illegal health care practices. We propose to accomplish these objectives through the use of surveys to explore relevant issues with the members of the Latino community. Ideally, this will lead to heightened community awareness and the development of the best approaches for behavior modification.

By Olga Galvan MPH
Director, Binational Border Health Program
Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services

1-Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Matrices PL1, PL2, PL3, and PL4.
2-Binational/Border Health Program, Current Status of the Program Document, 5/30/2002

Approximately half of non-elderly Latino's are **uninsured** in Los Angeles County.

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COMMUNITY KNOWING CIRCLES

The SPA 5 Council offered a training session on "Community Knowing Circles" on October 4, 2002, facilitated by Mr. John Ott, a consultant for the Children's Planning Council. The objective of this training was to introduce participants to the practice of Community Knowing Circles, offer hands-on experience engaging in a circle, and help participants develop some of the needed skills for effective community organizing. The following is his description of the purpose and value of community knowing circles:

The theory of community knowing circles is simple. Even when communities develop a commitment to use data for purposes of planning, learning, and community engagement, they often cannot get access to timely quantitative data.

If a community cannot get access to timely quantitative data, however, our experience tells us that there are many individuals in a community who know what the current reality is for any given indicator a community may want to track. These people may not know the reality for an entire Service Planning Area, but they know the reality for their neighborhood, or their church, or their school, or some other part of the community. Who are these people? They may be a local minister, a teacher, a nurse, the matriarch of a given community, or other people who are grounded in that community and who *know*.

The concept of *community knowing circles* is that, with modest support, we can facilitate the formation of small groups of these people in areas across the SPA. These small groups—these *community knowing circles*—would come together monthly, perhaps in someone's home, perhaps in a local school or church, to address some basic questions. For example:

- What is happening now to our children and families in relationship to a particular indicator? Do we see "trends" in our community improving or getting worse?
- What in our experience leads us to conclude that trends are getting better or worse?
- Are we seeing approaches in our community that are working?
- What can we do to help improve the trends for the children and families we know? What could the SPA Council do?

As these *knowing circles* meet across the SPA, representatives from the different circles would gather, perhaps once a quarter, to share and compare the "knowings" that are emerging within each circle. This process will achieve at least three concrete benefits for the SPA/AIC Councils. First, this process will reinforce the idea that communities *do* know, and that they have the capacity to harvest and act on what they know. Second, it will give the SPA/AIC Council access to systematic qualitative data about the set of indicators they have chosen to impact. And third, the community knowing circles become entry points for a wide array of people who may not be drawn to participate in a SPA-wide Council but who do want to get involved to help children and families they know. That is, the *community knowing circles* become another vehicle for community engagement.



John Ott, President
John G. Ott & Associates

A Special Thank You Note to Myrra Yeger



The West SPA (SPA 5) Council Coordinator of many years, Ms. Myrra Yeger has ended her services with the Children's Planning Council as of January 1, 2003. Ms. Yeger made an enormous contribution to organize the SPA 5 (West) council meetings, committees, sub-committees, trainings, and multiple retreats for several years. She was an extremely dedicated employee of the Children's Planning Council and was very well liked and respected by the community members.

The West SPA Council celebrated Myrra's contribution to the community on Thursday March 20th, 2003. She was presented with numerous awards and letters of appreciation from Supervisor Zev Yareslavski's office, the council members, and the community. Myrra's dedication, hard work, flexibility, excellent skills, and exemplary attitude will be greatly missed here at the West SPA.

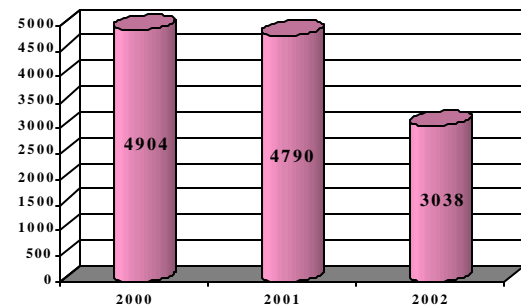
**Thank you, Myrra for all your hard work.
We all wish you the best in your future endeavors.**

Influenza Immunization Update

The Immunization Flu Season 2002 experienced a 36.6% decrease in the number of shots given to the community by the Public Health Department. This was an expected drop from the 2001, mainly due to the timely availability of vaccines in the local physician offices. Last year, we had a slight drop in flu vaccinations (2.3%) compared with the 48.2% increase we had experienced in 2000. There were a total of 3,038 shots administered in 2002, as opposed to 4,790 in 2001, and 4,904 in 2000.

Our special thanks to all the public health nurses, volunteers, the American Red cross, and all participating community sites for their enormous contribution to this effort.

**Flu Outreach 2000-2002
Shots Administered
West Service Planning Area**



LOCAL DISTRICT-D/ UCLA PARTNERSHIP

Local District D has established a viable and productive partnership with UCLA. On Sunday, January 13, this partnership presented the 8th annual UCLA "I'm going to College" Health and Human Services Fair. This annual fair provides an atmosphere of exploration, information, recreation, and education for students and their families.

Approximately 10,000 students and their parents traveled on buses and private automobiles to UCLA for a day of new beginnings and future planning on a campus that offers many opportunities for educational advancement. For some of the families this was their first experience on a college campus. The visit calmed some fears and answered many questions as families toured the UCLA campus with a UCLA student volunteer. All of the children learned the Bruin cheer and were invited to visit the Local District D Health and Human Services Fair.

The Health and Human Services Fair emphasizes that good health is essential to establishing and maintaining a successful and productive educational experience. Over seventy agencies were represented, including Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Los Angeles Fire and Police Departments, UCLA Venice Dental Clinic, Pierce College, and many more.

The day culminated with a UCLA versus USC women's basketball game in Pauley Pavilion which all of our students and families were invited to attend. Many of our students got in the spirit of the day with UCLA face painted art and the Bruin cheer they had learned on the campus tour. UCLA's defeat of USC provided an exciting end to a successful day.

*Herracia Brewer
Organizational Facilitator
Los Angeles Unified School District: Local District D*

The 18th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Poster Contest

April is designated as The National Child Abuse Prevention Month. On April 28, 2003, the Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) celebrated the exhibition of the 2003 Child Abuse Prevention Month Poster Contest, "Let's Take Care of Our Children". The poster contest, open to all 4th through 6th grade students in Los Angeles County, is designed to raise awareness on issues of child abuse prevention. The winners and their parents, teachers, and principals joined ICAN Council members and ICAN Associates at this event. Sheriff Lee Baca, ICAN Council Chairman and Beverly Kurtz, ICAN Associates Poster Contest Chair, presented the students and their teachers with their awards. The children were delighted and parents and teachers were proud of all the recognition they received.

ICAN and ICAN Associates are deeply thankful to the many individuals who have supported this worthwhile project and made it possible. Special thanks to all teachers, school health counselors, and principles who help reach thousands of children every year on the important issue of child abuse prevention.

*Beverly Kurtz,
ICAN Associates
Poster Contest Chair*

West Quarterly Chronicle
Selected Reportable Diseases
Provisional Data

Disease	Jul-Sep 02	Jul-Sep 01	Oct-Dec 02	Oct-Dec 01
AIDS	18	13	7	17
Amebiasis	5	10	2	6
Campylobacteriosis	38	34	20	28
Chlamydial Infections	267	245	321	261
Encephalitis	1	0	1	1
Gonorrhea	79	88	90	80
Hepatitis Type A	2	20	4	14
Hepatitis Type B	1	0	1	1
Hepatitis Type C	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	5	1	5	2
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	2	1
Non-gonococcal Urethritis	50	7	36	30
Pertussis	3	3	2	3
Salmonellosis	23	17	8	20
Shigellosis	16	15	35	27
Syphilis, primary & secondary	7	2	6	4
Syphilis, early latent (<1 yr.)	4	0	2	0
Tuberculosis	7	11	10	9

West SPA Team

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	Mary Singaus, RN, PHN
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 Community Worker	vacant

Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the West Service Planning Area (SPA5). Farimah Fiali is Editor-in-chief. For additional information call 310-998-3220. WWW.lapublichealth.org/sap5/



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